

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A glutamine-auxotrophic human cell transfected with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a protein or an exogenous DNA sequence capable of altering the expression of an endogenous gene encoding a protein and an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase, wherein these exogenous DNA sequences are located on ~~one or~~ more than one DNA construct, said transfected cell capable of producing said protein

and capable of growing in a glutamine-free medium.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of [[any of]] claim 1, wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

4. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 3, wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

5. (Original) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 4, wherein the human fibrosarcoma cell is a HT1080 cell line.

6. (Previously Presented) The glutamine-auxotrophic human cell of claim 1, wherein the transfected cell is anchorage-independent and capable of growing in suspension in serum-free, glutamine-free medium.

7. (Original) A process for the production of a protein comprising the steps of

- a) culturing a glutamine-auxotrophic human cell according to claim 1 in a culture medium under conditions suitable for expression of said protein and
- b) recovering said protein.

8. (Original) The process of claim 7 wherein the protein is a glycosylated protein.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

10. (new) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is serum-free and/or glutamine free.

11. (new) The process of claim 7 wherein the culture medium is both serum free and glutamine free.

12. (new) The process of claim 7 wherein the protein is a glycosylated protein.

13. (new) The process of claim 12 wherein said glycosylated protein is a sialylated protein.

14. (new) The process of claim 13 wherein sialylation is defined a N-glycan charge.

15. (new) The process of claim 14 wherein said sialylated protein comprises tri, tetra- or pentasialo isoforms of said N-glycan.